

**CLEAN VERSION OF CLAIMS**

2. For a user having a toe and standing on a skate, a skate braking mechanism comprising:

a brake; and

a lifter connected to the brake and pressable upward by the toe of the user to actuate the

5 brake;

whereby the brake connected to the lifter is actuated according to a natural motion of the user to maintain balance.

3. The skate braking mechanism according to claim 2, wherein the lifter is pivoted to be moved  
10 upward by the toe.

4. The skate braking mechanism according to claim 3, wherein the lifter is pivoted about a pivot axis adjacent to a joint between a metatarsal and a phalanx of the toe.

5. The skate braking mechanism according to claim 2, wherein the brake comprises a brake shoe  
15 coupled to the lifter, and wherein the brake shoe bears on at least one wheel of the skate when actuated.

6. The skate braking mechanism according to claim 5, wherein the brake shoe is directly coupled  
20 to the lifter.

7. The skate braking mechanism according to claim 5, wherein the brake shoe is coupled to the lifter via a linkage.

8. For a user, having a toe, on a skate including at least one wheel: a skate brake actuated by dorsiflexion;

comprising a lifter moved upward by the dorsiflexion to actuate the skate brake;

comprising a brake shoe coupled to the lifter, and wherein the brake shoe bears on at least  
5 the one wheel of the skate brake when actuated;

wherein the brake shoe is pivoted to rotate about an axle of another wheel, so as to bear against the one wheel.

9. The skate braking mechanism according to claim 5, wherein the brake shoe comprises fiber-  
10 reinforced elastomer.

10. The skate braking mechanism according to claim 9, wherein the brake shoe comprises a portion of fiber-reinforced elastomer belt.

11. The skate braking mechanism according to claim 9, wherein the elastomer comprises  
15 urethane.

12. The skate braking mechanism according to claim 2, comprising a return spring counteracting an upward pressing motion of the toe.

13. The skate braking mechanism according to claim 2, wherein the lifter is positioned above the  
20 toe forward of metatarsals of the foot of the user.

14. The skate braking mechanism according to claim 13, wherein the lifter is pivoted to be  
25 moved upward by the toe.

15. The skate braking mechanism according to claim 14, wherein the lifter is pivoted about a pivot axis adjacent to a joint between a metatarsal and a phalanx of the toe.

16. For a user having a toe and standing on a skate, a skate braking mechanism comprising:

5           a brake; and  
          means for actuating the brake by pressing upward the toe of the user.

17. The skate braking mechanism according to claim 2, wherein the brake comprises a brake shoe that is pivoted to rotate about an axle of a first wheel, so as to bear against a second wheel.